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AFRICAN NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE TREATY

Letter dated 8 May 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a press release issued by the Government of Venezuela on 15 April 1996 on the occasion of the signing of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (the Pelindaba Treaty).

I should be grateful if you would have this press release circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 79 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Enrique TEJERA PARIS
Permanent Representative

* A/51/50.

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Annex

Press release issued by the Government of Venezuela
on 15 April 1996

The Government of Venezuela welcomes the signing, on 11 April 1996, of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (the Pelindaba Treaty), a historic event that will help to strengthen the international nuclear non-proliferation regime, as a result of the joint efforts of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity.

The Government of Venezuela recognizes that the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones based on agreements voluntarily entered into by the States concerned is an effective means of disarmament and is confident that this legal instrument will help to promote regional stability and strengthen international peace and security.

The Government of Venezuela therefore hopes that the States parties will take the necessary steps so that the above-mentioned Treaty may enter into force as quickly as possible, thereby complementing the efforts undertaken by Latin America and the Caribbean with the signing of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, by the countries of the South Pacific with the signing of the Treaty of Rarotonga, and by the Association of South-East Asian Nations with the signing of the Treaty of Bangkok on 15 December 1995 and giving impetus to the incorporation of other regions of the world into the regime of nuclear-weapon-free zones.

Caracas